



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

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SUBMISSION OF TICKS FOR LYME DISEASE TESTING

Specimen Requirements:

The tick must be alive or fresh, not dehydrated. Ticks should be submitted in a rigid, tightly closed container such as a small film canister or pill box to prevent damage during transit. A water-saturated cotton ball or wad of tissue should be placed inside the container with the tick. **Do not place tick in alcohol, formalin, or other preservatives.** Ticks that have been dead for a period of time may not be suitable for testing.

Mail or deliver to:

Placer County Public Health Laboratory
11475 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Patient Information:

Submit patient information on a completed Placer County Public Health Laboratory "Examination Request" form.

Include the following additional information:

1. Date tick was removed from patient.
2. Suspect geographical location where tick was acquired.
3. Estimated length of time tick was on patient.
4. If an Examination Request form is not available, include patient's full name, date of birth, address, and phone number.

The Test:

The tick is first identified to genus and species. If it is determined to be an *Ixodes pacificus*, the species known to transmit the Lyme disease organism (*Borrelia burgdorferi*), the tick's midgut contents are dissected and stained. The test performed is an Indirect Fluorescent Antibody (IFA) stain.

Tick testing is routinely performed each week.

Reports:

Reports will contain the identification of the tick and, if tested, the IFA result of the ticks midgut contents.

Reports of all identifications and IFA tests will be by telephone.

Hard copy reports will follow to the submitter and physician (if applicable).

Billing Information:

Fee for Tick identification is \$12.00.

Fee for IFA testing is an additional \$25.00. (Please make check payable to Placer County Public Health Laboratory.)